

1-19 (CANCELED).

20. (NEW) An apparatus for strapping and/or bundling pallets and articles, having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed around the pallets/articles and having a closure device for subsequent tensioning and closure of the packing band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least some of the weight of the closure device (3).

21. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) has a linear guide (4), at one of whose ends the closure device (3) is arranged.

22. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the closure device (3) is arranged such that the closure device (3) can move on the linear guide (4) by a joint element (7).

23. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a damping element (10) is arranged between the linear guide (4) and the joint element (7) for defined alignment of the closure device (3).

24. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the joint element (7) has two holes (11), which are arranged offset through 90° with respect to one another, to vary the alignment of the closure element (3).

25. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) can pivot only within a predetermined angle range, with a maximum 45°, about a vertical axis (8b) of the joint element (7).

26. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) is connected to the joint element (7) by a detachable connection, preferably a plug connection (12).

27. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) has a guide element (5) for bearing and supporting the linear guide (4).

28. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the guide element (5) is mounted such that the guide element (5) can rotate about a horizontal axis (14).

29. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) is connected to the strapping device (1) by a bracket.

30. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein a damping element (15) is arranged between the bracket (6) and the guide element (5) to support at least some of the weight of the closure element (3) and/or of the guide device (2), and for alignment of the linear guide (4).

31. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the linear guide (4) is in the form of a rail, and the guide element (5) has rollers (13) for guiding and bearing the linear guide (4).

32. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the guide element (5) is arranged inclined so as to prevent the linear guide (4) from moving on its own in the direction of the pallets/articles.

33. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the closure device (3) is an electrical hand-held appliance, preferably a welding appliance with a rechargeable battery.

34. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the damping elements are compressed gas cylinders (10, 15).

35. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a spacer (17) and/or a distance gauge.

36. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) is a joint device (16) provided with damping elements (10, 15).

37. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the linear guide (4a) can be moved essentially horizontally, and a further linear guide (4b), which can be moved essentially vertically, is arranged between the end of the linear guide (4a) and the closure device (3).

38. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the vertical linear guide (4b) is provided with a damping element (15) in order to compensate for the weight forces which occur.